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Chrono

16 November 1977

NOTE FOR: [redacted]  
Office of Policy and Planning

FROM: [redacted]  
Acting Chairman, Security Committee

SUBJECT: Draft DCID on Compartmentation

1. Your memorandum of 15 November 1977 for BG Atkeson relayed Mr. McMahon's suggestion that we contact Sayre Stevens to determine his views on our draft DCID on compartmentation. We called [redacted] about this, and he called us back after discussing the matter with Sayre--with the following results. Sayre tasked the NRO, NSA, and CIA members of his group to examine what their organizations are presently compartmenting with a view towards some decompartmentation, and development of criteria for each of their organizations on what should and should not thenceforth be compartmented. [redacted] reports that he and Sayre believe this effort does not bear directly on the central issues raised by the draft DCID--namely, what should be the overall DCI policy on use of compartmentation, and whether there should be a single focal point supporting the DCI in bringing together the various considerations bearing on protection and use of sensitive information. The last issue is still unresolved. The near-to-completion Executive Order on security classification is expected to contain a section on compartmentation which will require personal DCI approval of all existing and new compartments, after consideration of the balance between needs for protection and use. That requirement seems to argue that the DCI should have a single focal point to consolidate for his consideration the frequently different claims of the collectors and the consumers.

2. Unless advised to the contrary, we presume this obviates the need for writing to Sayre and will satisfy Mr. McMahon's concerns.

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